

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (currently amended): A processing unit for managing data stored in a first data processing device, comprising:

a first interface to an object-oriented application which initializes access to the data and affords changes to the data;

a second interface to an access unit which provides different access mechanisms for respectively different memory structures, wherein the unit provides the object-oriented application with appropriate data by accessing the access unit and affords changes to the data independent of changes made to the data via the first interface; and

a third interface to a consistency module that automatically updates for automatically updating changes and automatically provides the changes and notification of the updates to the data in further object-oriented applications accessing the same data.

Claim 2. (currently amended): A processing unit for managing data stored in a first data processing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the data are provided as required objects.

Claim 3. (canceled).

Claim 4. (currently amended): A processing unit for managing data stored in a first data processing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the object-oriented application runs on the first data processing device in which the data are stored.

Claim 5. (currently amended): A processing unit for managing data stored in a first data processing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the object-oriented application runs on a second data processing device and the data are stored in the first data processing device, the first and second data processing devices being connected to one another via a network.

Claim 6. (currently amended): A processing unit for managing data stored in a first data processing device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the unit is arranged in the first data processing device.

Claim 7. (currently amended): A processing unit for managing data stored in a first data processing device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the first interface is used for connection to a network interface unit.

Claim 8. (currently amended): A processing unit for managing data stored in a first data processing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein, for a plurality of object-oriented applications, each application has a respectively associated application-specific unit.

Claim 9. (currently amended): A system for managing data, comprising:
a processing unit for managing the data, the unit including a first processing device, a first interface to an object-oriented application which initializes access to the data and affords changes to the data, a second interface to an access unit which provides different access mechanisms for respectively different memory structures, wherein the unit provides the object-oriented application with appropriate data by accessing the access unit and affords changes to the data independent of changes made to the data via the first interface, and a third interface to a consistency module ~~for automatically updating~~that automatically updates changes and automatically provides the changes and notification of the updates to the data in further object-oriented applications accessing the same data; and

a second data processing device, wherein the object-oriented application runs on the second data processing device and the data are stored in the first processing device, the first and second data processing devices being connected to one another via a network.